

Norris  
10/705,569

### REMARKS

The undersigned requests a personal interview with the Examiner in charge of this application to discuss the issues raised in this amendment.

Claim 6 was rejected as being unpatentable over Abrums.

The present invention differs in a number of ways over this reference. While Abrums does have nested containers with tops that can be used either to close the openings into the containers or releasably connected to the bottoms of the containers for nesting and storage, the design for doing so is completely different from the present invention.

In the present invention, each cover has a single retention channel for both the top and bottom of the container. In the reference, the cover has two channels, one for closing the top of a container and the other for attaching to the bottom of the container. This is a major difference which makes the present invention far more practical, economic to make, and useful.

The Examiner points out in his Office action that "claim 1 does not preclude more than a single channel". While this could be argued, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the flat lid is "limited to a single channel".

In the present invention, the second lip extends outwardly from the bottom of the container. According to the Examiner, the Fig. 5 embodiment of Abrums has a lip extending downwardly and "therefore outwardly from the base". This also can be argued, but claim 1 has been amended to recite that the lip extends "radially outwardly".

Claim 1 has been amended in other ways to further distinguish over the reference. The claim now recites that the upper surface of the first lip is an extension of the upper edge of the wall. In Abrums, it will be seen that the upper lip is set back from the top edge of the container. The claim has been also amended to recite that the lid color match is "limited to" the lip on the lid. Support for such language appears in the top of page 33 of the specification and Fig. 8 of the drawings. This feature is not found in Abrums.

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Two new depending claims have been added. In order for the lid in the present invention to function as described, with only a single retention channel for both the first and second lips of the container as described and claimed, the first and second lips have to be mirror images of each other as clearly illustrated in Fig. 4 (and elsewhere in the drawings). This limitation appears in a new claim 13 which depends from claim 6.

New depending claim 14 adds that the containers are made from a polymer substance, as described in page 26, fourth line from the bottom, of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims in their present form clearly distinguish over Abrums and should be allowed.

The undersigned or Mr. Kroll should be called in the event further changes are to be made to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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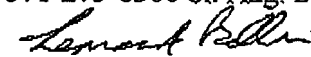
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S.  
Patent and Trademark Office, telephone number 571-273-8300 on Aug. 24, 2007.



Leonard Belkin